

REMARKS

The Present Invention

The present invention is related to mild, enzyme driven methods for removing amine and hydroxide protecting groups.

Amendments to the Specification and Claims

The specification and claims 9, 15 and 16 have been amended to correct typographical errors in formulae related to substrates and/or products of the present invention. Claims 11-14 have been canceled in response to a restriction requirement. The amendments contain matter that may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, at page 2, line 23 to page 3, line 16, page 6, lines 7-12 and 15-16, Examples 3 and 4, Tables 1, 2 and 3, and the original claims. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by way of the aforesaid amendments.

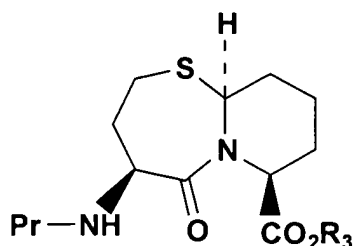
The Pending Claims

Claims 1-10 and 15-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-10 and 15-20 relate to enzyme driven methods for removing amine and hydroxide protecting groups.

The Office Action

In the Office Action, a three-way restriction requirement was presented under 35 U.S.C. §121. In response to the Office Action, applicants respectfully elect Group I, namely claims 1-10 and 15-20. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that all of the claims relate to enzyme driven methods for removing amine and hydroxide protecting groups and that a complete search of any group would involve a search of all the groups.

In addition, as required by the Office Action, applicants provisionally elect the following compound as the substrate:



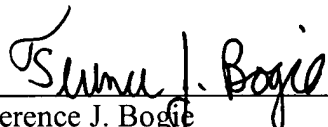
, wherein Pr- is $\text{ArC}^*(\text{R})\text{H}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{O}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$.

Said election is being made for searching purposes only and should not be construed as a limitation of the substrate of the present invention. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 15 and 16 read on the elected species.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below if the Examiner has any questions or comments.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, including any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, for the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-3880.

Respectfully submitted,


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